

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1841 - SB 2221

February 24, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes parents, through a written request, to opt their children out of the state standardized testing. Requires any such written request be made at least 30 days prior to the test administration.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – It is unknown how passage of this bill will impact federal funding. Based on information provided by the Department of Education, total federal funding exceeding \$524,600,000 could be jeopardized.**

Assumptions:

- State and local governments will continue to purchase enough tests and test materials so that all students may take the state standardized tests each year. Therefore, no decrease in state or local expenditures for tests or test materials.
- The annual number of students whose parents will elect to opt their child out of the state standardized tests is unknown.
- According to the Department of Education, administering standardized tests to all students is a central requirement to receive federal funds for a wide variety of programs, including receipt of the Race to the Top grant.
- It is unknown if the U.S. Department of Education would withhold funds or require the state to pay back a portion of the Race to the Top grant funding as a result of not testing all Tennessee students. According to the Tennessee Department of Education, Tennessee's estimated FY13-14 federal allocation for the programs that may be placed in jeopardy is \$524,600,877 (excluding the Race to the Top grant funding). Including Race to the Top Funding, the total amount of federal funding that could be jeopardized is estimated to exceed \$524,600,877.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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